

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Haeberle et al. Art Unit: 7129
Serial. No. 10/628,976 Examiner: Gortayo, Dangelino N.
Filed: 7/28/2003 Docket No. 2003P00904US01
For: Method and System for Obtaining
Operational Data and Service Information
for a Building Site

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 150
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AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of February 02, 2006 and the Notice to the Applicant regarding a non-Compliant Amendment, please amend the above identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on pages 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments being on page 9 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the abstract with the following:

A method and system is provided for retrieving information about operational data from a plurality of building systems and service and maintenance information for a plurality of building sites. A customer web portal is provided with a database for storing the operational data and the service information allowing users to more readily generate reports and obtain service related information for a plurality of sites without having to maintain separate database systems at remote locations.

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

16. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for providing information relating to service activity for a plurality of building sites and operation data for one or more systems located at one or more building sites:

providing a web portal comprising a database, and storing service related information about a plurality of building sites and operational data about one or more systems located in said one or more building sites in said database;

receiving at said web portal a request for information about service activities for one or more systems at one or more building sites from one or more clients;

determining at said web portal service activities that are implicated by said request;

transmitting from said web portal service activity information implicated by said request ~~such that said information is capable of being displayed on a client display,~~ to a client;

receiving at said web portal a request for operational data related to said service information transmitted by said web portal, said operational data including information about the functional operation of a system;

determining at said web portal the operational data implicated by said request; and

transmitting from said web portal operational data implicated by said request to a client ~~such that said operational data is capable of being displayed on a client display.~~

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said service activity information further comprises service contract information.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said service activity information further comprises information about the types of services being provided.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said service activity information further comprises information about the types of systems being serviced.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein said service activity information further comprises information about the status of service activities.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the step of providing a web portal comprises providing a web server.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for providing information relating to service activity for a plurality of building sites and operation data for one or more systems located at a building site:

providing a web portal comprising a database, and storing service related information about a plurality of building sites and operational data about one or more systems located in more or more of said building sites in said database;

receiving at said web portal a request for operational data about one or more systems from one or more clients, said operational data including information about the functional operation of the one or more systems ;

determining at said customer web portal operational data implicated by said request;

transmitting said operational data implicated by said request ~~such that the operational data is capable of being displayed on a client display;~~ to a client;

receiving at said web portal a request for service information related to said operational data from one or more clients;

determining at said customer web portal service information implicated by said request; and

transmitting said service related information implicated by said request ~~such that the service information is capable of being displayed on a client display~~ to a client.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein said service activity information further comprises service contract information.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein said service activity information further comprises information about the types of services being provided.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein said service activity information further comprises information about the types of systems being services.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein said service activity information further comprises information about the status of service activities.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the step of providing a web portal comprises providing a web server.

28. (Currently Amended) A system for providing information about a plurality of building sites comprising:

a server comprising a database for storing operational data from a plurality of building systems located in said plurality of building sites and for storing service activity information about said systems from a plurality of building sites, said server capable of being operatively connected to one or more clients through a network, said server ~~being capable of~~ receiving requests for said

operational data and said service activity data for one or more systems and
transmitting said operational data and service activity data to a client ~~such that~~
~~said operational data and service activity data is capable of being displayed on a~~
~~client display, wherein said operational data includes information about the~~
functional operation of the system.

29. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 28, wherein
said service activity information further comprises service contract information.

30. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 28, wherein
said service activity information further comprises information about the types of
services being provided.

31. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 28, wherein said
service activity information further comprises information about the types of
systems being serviced.

32. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 28, wherein said
service activity information further comprises information about the status of
service activities.

33. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein said one or more systems is selected from the group consisting of HVAC systems, fire safety systems and mechanical systems.

34. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein said one or more systems is selected from the group consisting of HVAC systems, fire safety systems and mechanical systems.

35. (New) The system according to claim 28, wherein said system is selected from the group comprising HVAC systems, fire safety systems and mechanical systems.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Application

Claims 16-32 are pending in this application. Claims 33-35 have been added to more clearly reflect that the systems for which service information may be provided and operational data may be provided can be selected from the group consisting of HVAC systems, fire safety systems and mechanical systems. In the February 02, 2006 office action, the Examiner rejected claims 16-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Kalantar et al. USP 6,954,737 ("Kalantar"). The Notice to the Applicant regarding the Non-Compliant Amendment was never received by applicant, but was noticed during counsel's period status check of the application on PAIR. A voice message to the Legal Instruments Examiner regarding the Notice was not returned. It is assumed that the basis of the notice was listing claims added by amendment as original claims. These claims have been relabeled.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC 112

Claims 16, 22 and 28 have been amended to remove the "capable of" language objected to by the examiner. The newly amended claims are not meant to claim both a web portal and a client, but that the web portal is provided so that it can provide information to a client upon request.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(e)

A The Present Invention

The present invention relates to a system and method for collecting service information and operational information for various types of building systems. The advantage of the present system is that by providing access to operational

data and service data, the user can better monitor the performance of their system. A user can use operational data and service data to better determine how well particular systems are working. If user detects an abnormality with the operation of a system, having access to service information can help the user pin-point potential problems with the system. Further, a user can monitor whether service has been conducted properly by having access to operational data to make sure their system has been repaired or maintained properly.

B. Kalantar

The Kalantar reference generally relates to a work management system for facility management. More specifically, the Kalantar reference relates to a system and method for managing facilities using client devices at each facility that communicate with a central management server through a network.

C. Kalantar does not disclose a method or system whereby operational and service information about a facility or a system can be retrieved.

Independent claims 16, 22 and 28 have been amended to make it clear that the present invention allows for the retrieval of both service information about one or more systems located at different building sites, but operational information as well. Claims 16, 22 and 28 have been amended to remove the “capable of” language objected to by the examiner. The new claims are not meant to claim both a web portal and a client, but that the web portal is provided so that it can provide information to a client upon request. A review of column 32, lines 25-43 shows a management server capable of receiving a task status message. Information about the status of a task, such as a service activity, is not analogous to information about how a system is operating, as the independent claims 16, 22 and 28 require. A review of the Kalantar reference shows no mention of providing a server with information about how a system is operating.


Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 16, 22 and 28 in light of Kalantar be withdrawn. New claims 33-35 have been amended to make it clear that the type of systems for which operational and service data is provided are selected from the group consisting of HVAC systems, fire safety systems and mechanical systems. There is no suggestion or teaching in Kalantar of being able to retrieve service or operational information from any type of building system. As claims 17-21, 23-27 and 29-33 incorporate the limitations of the independent claims, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn as well.

Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the applicants have made a patentable contribution to the art. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
SIEMENS CORPORATION

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